

Message Text

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70

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TAGS: PFOR, AG, ET

SUBJ: ALGERIA NODS TOWARDS ADDIS

1. ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED DAILY EL MOUDJAHID
6 MARCH CARRIED ON FRONT PAGE WHAT IT TERMED "EXCLUSIVE"
INTERVIEW WITH TEFERE BENTE, PRESIDENT OF ETHIOPIAN
PROVISIONAL MILITARY COUNCIL. EL MOUDJAHID PROTRAYED
INTERVIEW, WHICH IT STATES OCCURRED 4 MARCH, AS BENTE'S
"FIRST INTERVIEW WITH A FOREIGN JOURNALIST."

2. INTERVIEW OPENS WITH BENTE STRESSING "VERY GOOD
RELATIONS," "IDENTITY OF VIEWS," AND "COMMUNITY OF
INTERESTS" EXISTING BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND ALGERIA.
COMMENTARY ACCOMPANYING INTERVIEW PORTRAYS BENTE IN
EXTREMELY GOOD LIGHT: "MAN PROFOUNDLY CONCERNED ABOUT
FUTURE AND UNITY OF HIS COUNTRY" SPEAKING WITH
"MEASURED GESTURES AND SINCERE TONE" AND WORKING IN
"SMALL MODEST OFFICE" WITH "SOBER ATMOSPHERE." MAP OF
ETHIOPIA WITH ARTICLE SHOW NO MENTION OF ERITREA OR
ANY DISPUTED ZONES. INTERVIEW ITSELF COVERS DECOLONI-
ZATION AND OTHER "POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL" ISSUES
OF "AUTHENTIC ETHIOPIAN SOCIALISM"; IT ALSO

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INCLUDES BENTE HOMAGE TO SUDANESE WORK FOR "PEACE IN

CADRE OF UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ETHIOPIA."

3. COMMENT: ALGERIANS HAVE TREATED ERITREA ISSUE
GINGERLY. WHILE PRESS HAS REPORTED CONFLICT AT LENGTH
AND HAS APPEARED TO HIGHLIGHT "LIBERATION FORCES" OVER
"MILITARY AUTHORITIES," COMMENTARY HAS BEEN ONLY MODERATELY
LOADED. APPEARANCE OF THIS FRONT PAGE INTERVIEW,
ESPECIALLY ON LAST DAY OF OPEC SUMMIT WITH ALL ITS
ATTENDEES FROM OIL-PRODUCING WORLD, SUGGESTS ALGERIANS
HAVE OPTED FOR AT LEAST TEMPORARY TILT TOWARDS ADDIS.
ETHIOPIAN AGRARIAN REFORM DECISION MAY HAVE REASSURED
ALGERIANS THAT THEY DEALING WITH TRUE REVOLUTIONARY
SOCIALIST BROTHERS.
PARKER

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